

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action mailed July 30, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 to clarify the nature of the claimed subject matter and highlight patentable distinctions over the cited references. Applicants have amended dependent Claims 2, 8, 23, 32 and 38 in keeping with the amendments to the independent claims, have canceled Claims 3, 18 and 33, and have added new Claims 47-49, which are supported by the disclosure of the application as filed. Reasons supporting patentability of the claims are presented below.

The § 101 rejections are overcome

Applicants have amended the portion of the specification cited on page 2 of the Office Action to remove reference to "signal propagation medium." Applicants submit that the amendments overcome the § 101 rejections of Claims 31-40.

Amended independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 are patentable.

As amended, independent Claim 1 recites:

A method of managing display of menu items on a display of an electronic device, the method comprising:

defining first and second menus comprising respective first and second groups of menu items, wherein the first group of menu items is a subset of the second group of menu items;

displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns; and

responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, displaying the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns than the first rectangular array.

Independent Claims 16 and 31 have been similarly amended.

In rejecting Claim 3 as allegedly obvious with respect to a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,968 to Arcuri et al. ("Arcuri '968") and U.S. Patent No. 6,232,972 to Arcuri et al. ("Arcuri '972"), the Office Action concedes that Arcuri '968 "does not teach wherein the first menu comprises a first array of icons having a first number of rows and a first number of columns; and wherein the second menu comprises a second array of icons having a second

number of rows and a second number of columns, wherein the second number of rows is greater than the first number of rows and/or the second number of columns is greater than the first number of columns." Office Action, p. 5. Thus, Applicants submit that Arcuri '968 also does not disclose or suggest "displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns" and "responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, displaying the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns than the first rectangular array," as recited in amended independent Claim 1, or corresponding recitations of amended independent Claims 16 and 31.

The Office Action further asserts:

. . . Arcuri '972 teaches a first menu comprises a first array of icons having a first number of rows and a first number of columns (see fig. 2b; *array of icons 200 having a first number of rows and a first number of columns*); and a second menu comprises a second array of icons having a second number of rows and a second number of columns, wherein the second number of rows is greater than the first number of rows and/or the second number of columns is greater than the second number of columns (see fig. 2C; col. 7, lines 49-58; *second array of icons 215 . . .*

Office Action, p. 6. Applicants note that the alleged "first menu" 200 in Arcuri '972 does not include "plural rows" as recited in Claim 1 and, therefore, Arcuri '968 and Arcuri '972, alone or combination, do not disclose or suggest such recitations. In addition, the alleged "second menu" 215 in Arcuri '972 does not include menu items from the alleged "first menu" 200 and, therefore, the proposed combination of Arcuri '968 and Arcuri '972 also does not disclose or suggest display of first and second menus as rectangular arrays "wherein the first group of menu items is a subset of the second group of menu items." As none of the other cited references appear to provide the missing teachings, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 are patentable.

The dependent claims are patentable

Applicants submit that dependent claims 1, 4-10, 17, 19-25, 32, 34-40 and 47-49 are patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of the respective ones of independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 from which they depend. Applicants further submit that several of the dependent claims are separately patentable.

For example, new Claim 47 recites:

A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
defining a third menu comprising a third group of menu items, wherein the first and second groups of menu items are subsets of the third group of menu items;
responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, transitioning from display of the second rectangular array to display of the third menu as a third rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns than the second rectangular array; and
responsive to user activation of a menu reduction function, transitioning from display of the third rectangular array to display of the first rectangular array.

Corresponding apparatus and computer program product recitations are provided in new Claims 48 and 49. Such recitations are supported, for example, in the description provided on page 6, lines 1-9 of the specification:

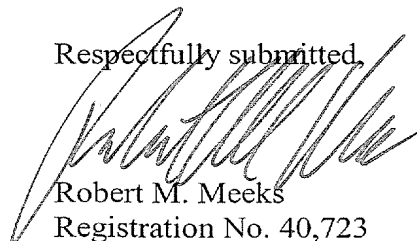
User selection of the menu expansion function menu item 140 leads to display of the menu 300 of FIG. 3. The menu 300 includes the menu items 110, 120, 130, 150, 160 of FIG. 2, which retain their mutual relationships. The expanded menu 300 further includes an additional row of menu items 170, 180, 190, which correspond to respective account information, phone settings, and security functions of the device. In the illustrated embodiments of FIGs. 1-3, the menu 300 represents the maximum menu expansion. The menu 300 includes a menu reduction function menu item 140' that leads back to the reduced-order menu 100 of FIG. 1, i.e., such that the menus 100, 200, 300 can be traversed in a cyclical fashion.

Applicants submit that the recitations of new Claims 47-49 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and that, therefore, Claims 47-49 are separately patentable.

Conclusion

As all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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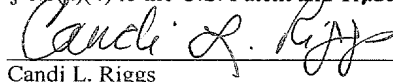
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